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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 17 March 1949

SUBJECT Shortages of Industrial Fats and Acids

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1. Up to July 1948, the Soviet Zone relied on deliveries of sebacic acid at the rate of 10,000 tons a year from Witten (Ruhr) to satisfy Zonal requirements. These deliveries were made against counter-deliveries of paraffin from the "Gasolin" SAG, Zeitz-Tröglitz.
2. In order to make the Soviet Zone independent of these interzonal transactions orders were given to construct an oxidization plant at the Deutsche Hydrierwerke, Rodleben. The first stage of this construction, 50 percent of the plant, was to be completed by the end of November 1948. Kalitzki of the Deutsche Hydrierwerke was put in charge of this task. Machinery came from the West.
3. Since the cessation of the majority of deliveries from the West, the engineers have been forced to improvise from the resources of the Soviet Zone, and several machine parts have been made from iron and aluminum instead of steel. The target date was kept, and the first stage was completed according to schedule. The opening ceremony took place on 9 and 10 December 1948.
4. This plant has a capacity of 266 tons a month, or 3,200 tons a year of sebacic acid which is equivalent to one-third of the previous requirements obtained from the Western Zones. It is doubtful, however, whether under continuation of the Allied counter-blockade, the second stage of construction can be achieved. Improvisations from the Soviet Zone can hardly cover the requirements of the whole plant.
5. In order to cover the pressing need for soap, plans have been made to import industrial fats and oils. The amounts which can be imported will depend on the dollar resources of the Zone.
6. The Rodleben oxidization plant required 150 tons of sulphuric acid a month. This is one of the greatest bottlenecks in the Russian Zone economy. Poland and Czechoslovakia were prepared to deliver only 400 tons in the second half of 1948.
7. The production of margarine in the Soviet Zone has been suffering from an insufficient production capacity for the manufacture of hardened vegetable oils. Rodleben is the only factory producing such fats.

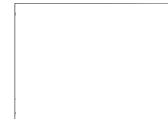
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8. A private industrialist named Benjamin, a resident of Berlin-Charlottenburg, has received support from the SMA and the DWK to construct a second plant in Berlin-Lichtenburg. The Berliner Armaturenwerk AG (BAWAG), Berlin-Charlottenburg, is in charge of construction. This firm supplies labor, as well as equipment [redacted] The equipment is flown in on the air-lift, being provided by branches of BAWAG [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 Production in this new plant was expected to start on 15 January 1949.
 Comment: [redacted] supplies can be flown to BAWAG, Berlin, as it is now considered a branch [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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